



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Oil Control Program, Suite 620, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore MD 21230-1719

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Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

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September 2, 2004

CERTIFIED MAIL

Cloverly Civic Association & Concerned Residents
c/o Ms. Paul Nerret
621 Bryants Nursery Road
Silver Spring MD 20905

**RE: Case No: 2003-0695 MO1
Former Shell Gas Station
15541 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland
Facility I.D. No. 0001245**

Dear Members of the Cloverly Civic Association & Concerned Residents:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Oil Control Program is pleased to provide you with an update concerning the groundwater contamination in the vicinity of the former Shell gas station property located at the above-referenced address in Montgomery County. This *Second Quarter Update Report - August 25, 2004* is now available at the Fairland Library (14910 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville) for review. This update covers the period between May 2004 and August 2004.

Status of the Residential Well Sampling Results & Alternative Water Supply:

Shell agreed to pay for all costs associated with the connection to the waterline for a total of nine (9) homes and to install a carbon filtration unit on one more home. The Department modified the sampling frequency for all ten (10) residential wells from twice per month to once per month.

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| ▪ 721 and 750 Bryants Nursery Rd. | - Connected to waterline. |
| ▪ 720, 730 and 731 Bryants Nursery Rd. | - Carbon filtration units in place pending waterline connection. |
| | - Monthly sampling confirm that MTBE is being successfully removed from the finished water. |
| ▪ 710, 711 and 741 Bryants Nursery Rd. | - Receive potable water pending waterline connection after plumbing activities are completed. |
| ▪ 740 Bryants Nursery Rd. | - Homeowner unresponsive to Shell's offer for alternative water supply. Several requests by the Department to sample on-site domestic well have been futile. |
| ▪ 700 Bryants Nursery Road | - Potable water being supplied pending installation of a carbon filtration system. |

In June 2004, first quarter sampling was completed for fourteen (14) residential wells which were not included as part of Shell's waterline connection program. Drinking water tests results from this first quarter were consistent with previous sampling results. However, MTBE levels increased in two domestic wells located at 715 Snider Lane and 15605 New Hampshire Avenue. Both homes have access to a pre-existing water line and Shell is providing bottled water to the resident at 15605 New Hampshire Avenue.

Status of the On-site and Off-site Field Investigation

Interim remedial measures have been implemented at the service station to capture, contain and reduce the migration of the MTBE plume off-site. A pump and treat groundwater system recently installed at the facility has been in operation since July 2004. Approximately 200,000 gallons of groundwater has been treated for petroleum constituents prior to being discharged to the storm drain under an approved MDE discharged permit.

The *Final Site Investigation* report documenting hydrogeologic conditions on- and off-site will be submitted to the Oil Control Program by September 30, 2004. This report will include recommendations for further corrective actions; shallow and deep monitoring well sampling results; aquifer and slug test results; geophysical studies; and, a soil vapor extraction pilot study. Based on the results of this report, the MDE anticipates that a corrective action plan (CAP) will be developed to address the MTBE contamination. Please note that the community will have an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed CAP prior to the Department's approval of this cleanup plan.

Thank you for your patience in this matter as we continue to work together on this very important issue. If I may be of further assistance or if you have any questions concerning the progress of this case, please do not hesitate to contact Yolande Norman or me at 410-537-3442.

Sincerely,



Herbert Meade, Program Administrator
Oil Control Program

YN/nln

cc: The Honorable Rona Kramer
Mr. Richard Tambascio (Shell Oil Products)
Mr. Roy Backman (Enviro-Trac)
Ms. Priscilla Flester (President –Draper Properties Inc.)
Mr. Allan Soukup (Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection)
Mr. Kenneth Medearis (Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection)
Mr. Horacio Tablada